

What is claimed is:

1. A portable helipad, comprising
a deck having a top surface, an underside surface, and
a peripheral margin;
a plurality of legs depending from the deck for
supporting the deck, the plurality of legs comprising at
least one extensible leg;
and a plurality of leg braces, at least one leg brace
extending from each one of the plurality of legs to an
attachment means within an associated zone of attachment
on the underside surface of the deck, said zone being
defined for each such leg by the region that lies between
the top of such leg and a boundary that is substantially
equidistant from the top of that leg and the top of the
nearest other leg, said zone not extending beyond the
boundary of equidistance between that leg and the nearest
other leg.
2. A portable helipad as defined in claim 1, wherein at least one
of the leg braces is in compression under load, in order that
a lesser amount of material may be used to construct the deck
while maintaining a preselected minimum deck load bearing
capacity.
3. The portable helipad of claim 1, wherein all of the leg braces
are in compression under load, in order that a lesser amount
of material may be used to construct the deck while
maintaining a preselected minimum deck load bearing capacity.
4. The portable helipad of claim 1, wherein the overall portable
helipad structure is sufficiently light to be carried in an
assembled state by a helicopter of a size suitable for landing
on the portable helipad.
5. The portable helipad of claim 2, wherein the overall portable
helipad structure is sufficiently light to be carried in an

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12. The portable helipad of claim 9, wherein the extensible legs and extensible leg braces are adjustable by pin means, in order that the portable helipad may rapidly be adjusted to suit the terrain upon which it is set without the use of tools.

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13. The portable helipad of claim 10, wherein the extensible legs and extensible leg braces are adjustable by pin means, in order that the portable helipad may rapidly be adjusted to suit the terrain upon which it is set without the use of tools.

14. The portable helipad of claim 11, wherein the extensible legs and extensible leg braces are adjustable by pin means, in order that the portable helipad may rapidly be adjusted to suit the terrain upon which it is set without the use of tools.

15. A portable helipad as defined in claim 1, wherein at least one of the legs is shorter than at least one of the remaining legs comprising the plurality of legs, in order that the helipad may be used on a slope.

16. A portable helipad as defined in claim 1, wherein the legs depend substantially vertically downward from the deck, and at least one leg is adjustable in order to maintain the deck in a substantially horizontal plane.

17. A portable helipad as defined in claim 1, wherein the deck is permeable to precipitation and wind.

18. The portable helipad of claim 17, in which the deck is constructed of an open weave material for substantial reduction of snow and wind loading.

19. The portable helipad of claim 17, additionally comprising removable helicopter restraint means extending through the top

surface of the deck and removably affixed to an associated point of attachment on the underside surface of the deck in order to prevent a helicopter resting upon the portable helipad from sliding off of the portable helipad in strong winds.

20. The portable helipad of claim 18, additionally comprising removable helicopter restraint means extending through the top surface of the deck and removably affixed to an associated point of attachment on the underside surface of the deck in order to prevent a helicopter resting upon the portable helipad from sliding off of the portable helipad in strong winds.
21. The portable helipad of claim 1, additionally comprising removable ground engagement and anchoring means secured at the distal end of at least one leg.
22. The portable helipad of claim 21, wherein the removable ground engagement and anchoring means comprise platforms suitable for anchorage to the ground and stumps by spiking.
23. The portable helipad of claim 1, wherein the legs are secured to the deck at positions that are inset from the peripheral margin of the deck.
24. The portable helipad of claim 11, wherein the legs are secured to the deck at positions that are inset from the peripheral margin of the deck.
25. The portable helipad of claim 1, wherein the associated attachment means for each leg brace is located substantially at the peripheral margin of the deck at the boundary equidistant between the leg to which such leg brace is attached and the nearest other leg.
26. The portable helipad of claim 11, wherein the associated

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attachment means for each leg brace is located substantially at the peripheral margin of the deck at the boundary equidistant between the leg to which such leg brace is attached and the nearest other leg.

27. The portable helipad of claim 1, wherein the associated attachment means for all leg braces is located substantially at the center of the underside surface of the deck.
28. The portable helipad of claim 11, wherein the associated attachment means for all leg braces is located substantially at the center of the underside surface of the deck.
29. A portable helipad as defined in claim 1, comprising at least three legs and associated leg braces..
30. The combination of a helicopter and a portable helipad removably transportable in a fully assembled state by said helicopter, said portable helipad comprising
 - a deck;
 - a plurality of legs depending from the deck for supporting the deck; the plurality of legs comprising at least one extensible leg;
 - a plurality of leg braces, at least one leg brace extending from each one of the plurality of legs to an attachment means within an associated zone of attachment on the underside surface of the deck defined by the region that lies between the leg and a boundary that is substantially equidistant from that leg and any other leg, but not beyond the boundary of equidistance between that leg and any other leg;
 - deck engagement means attached to the underside of the helicopter for releasably attaching the portable helipad in transport position; and,
 - helicopter engagement means complementing the deck engagement means for releasably attaching the deck to the underside of the helicopter.

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31. The combination of claim 30, wherein the deck of the portable helipad is constructed of an open weave material for reduced weight and substantial reduction in wind loading.

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Date

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